

REMARKS

The claims have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as a whole, particularly at p. 21, ll. 16 – 27. A Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith. Examination of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 22 – 28 have been examined. Claims 22 – 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,788,778 (“Shang”) and Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Shang. Independent claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations found in claims 25 and 26 in order to traverse these objections.

In the Final Office Action, the Office cites to Shang at column 5, lines 1-5, to argue that this cited reference teaches a diluent gas flow comprising an inert gas or a reduction gas (Final Office Action, 1/29/2007, page 3). However, Shang describes these two gases as:

"minor carrier gas[es] that [are] connected to the remote activation chamber through another valve and flow control mechanism 53. The minor carrier gas[es] aid[] in the transport of the activated species to the deposition chamber. . . . [T]he minor carrier gases may be argon, nitrogen, helium, hydrogen, or oxygen, etc." (Shang, column 4, line 64 - column 5, line 5).

Shang thus teaches that a diluent gas, or a "minor carrier gas" using Shang's lexicography, is mixed with reactive radicals at a location where the reactive radicals are formed. Claim 22, however, requires that this mixing of a diluent gas and reactive radicals occurs downstream from where the reactive radicals are formed. Furthermore, FIG. 1 at **52** and **53** in Shang clearly shows that this cited reference teaches that a mixing of a diluent gas and reactive radicals occurs at a location where the flow of said reactive radicals is formed, not downstream of the reactive radical formation location as claimed in claim 22. Therefore, Shang does not teach all the elements of claim 22 as amended and thus this cited reference does not anticipate independent claim 22 or the dependent claims 23, 24, 27, and 28 for the same reasons.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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